

Preface

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Preface to a special issue on the systematics of Asian fishes based on presentations at annual conferences of ASI in Taipei in 2016 and in Ho Chi Minh City in 2017

LAWRENCE M. PAGE¹, WEI-JEN CHEN² & PATRICK J. CICCOTTO¹

¹*Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL 32611-7800, USA;*
E-mail: lpage@flmnh.ufl.edu; p.ciccotto@gmail.com

²*Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan; Email: wjchen.actinops@gmail.com*

The Asian Society of Ichthyologists (ASI) was established in February 2014 in Penang, Malaysia following organizational meetings in 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand and in 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. The objectives of ASI are to:

- Promote the understanding, appreciation, wise economic use, and conservation of fishes;
- Promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all branches of ichthyology;
- Gather and disseminate to Society members and the general public scientific, technical, and other information about fishes through publications, meetings, and other forms of communication; and
- Encourage the teaching of ichthyology and other forms of biodiversity science in colleges and universities.

Following the launch of ASI in Penang in 2014, the second annual conference of the society took place in Guilin, China in 2015. The third was held in Taipei, Taiwan in 2016, and the fourth in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in 2017. Each conference provided a platform for participants to present results on their latest research and exchange information with other scientists and students interested in fishes of Asia. Presentations have included those on taxonomy, phylogenetics, evolution, ecology, behavior, physiology, conservation, and fisheries management. This special issue of *Zootaxa* contains papers on the taxonomy and phylogenetics of Asian fishes. Most are based on presentations at the annual conferences of ASI in Taipei in 2016 and in Ho Chi Minh City in 2017.

The 2018 Annual Conference of the Asian Society of Ichthyologists will take place in Guangxi University, Nanning, China on 30 November–5 December. The conference, to be hosted by the Asian Society of Ichthyologists and the Chinese Ichthyological Society, and organized by Guangxi University, the No.4 Institute of State Oceanic Administration, the Oceanic Administration of Beihai City, Guangxi, Beibowan University, and Guangxi Zoological Society, is open to anyone interested in Asian fishes. More information can be found at: <http://asianfish.org/index.php>. The conference will include oral presentations and posters, and a field excursion to survey coral reef fishes in Beihai City, Guangxi.